

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes the following change to the figures:

Figure 7, please add the legend —PRIOR ART— as shown.

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-8 are in the present application. It is submitted that the prior claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, the changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 3, 5, and 9 are canceled.

Figure 7 was objected to as not being designated as prior art. A replacement sheet has been submitted labeling Figure 7 as —PRIOR ART—. Accordingly, this objection has been overcome.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As suggested by the Examiner, the claims have been amended to remove the word “type” from the limitations to make the expressions definite. Regarding the location of the objected to “protective portion” in claims 7, Applicant refers the Examiner to the protective portion 25 shown in Figure 6 to explain that the protective portion is not a layer, but rather a portion disposed on the base layer 11 as recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant

believes the protected portion limitation is definite. In claim 1, the “main component” phrase has been deleted to render these claims definite. Regarding the objection to claim 4, the percentages provide the range of vinyl acetate making up the styrene vinyl acetate, not the primer layer directly as indicated by the Examiner. Claim 9 is canceled. Accordingly, Applicant believes all of the objections have been overcome.

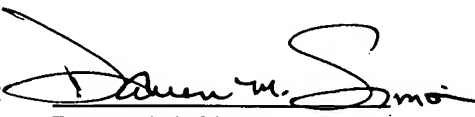
Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba et al. (U.S. Patent 4,707,406). Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba et al. (U.S. Patent 4,707,406) in view of Ueno et al. (U.S. Patent 5,318,943). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of canceled dependent claim 3. Claim 3 was not rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 9 has been canceled. Accordingly, all of the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

An extension of time fee is deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment. No additional fees are anticipated, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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